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CO'S CORNER

Skinny Dragon Ohana,

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou from Sigonella! As a tremendous and very successful 2014 Year passes us by, the Skinny Dragons are clearly focused on continuing our remarkable deployment success, preparing for a seamless deployment turnover with VP-47, and planning a safe journey half way around the world back to our Hawaiian Paradise and our loved ones. Christmas and New Year's came and went in a flash as the Skinny Dragon team continued the press through the last couple of months of deployment. I would like to express a warm and heartfelt thank you to all the family members back home for their support and encouragement through the holiday season. Admin Sailors have been spreading Holiday Cheer as they were very busy sorting through and distributing the countless packages and letters of encouragement sent to us from our families and the various school and church groups that were thinking of us during this Holiday Season. The Skinny Dragons have been maintaining a high pace of operations and continue to excel in the air and on the ground. I'm proud of their hard work and focus despite being away from home during the holidays. We will finish the way we started and get home safely! Our complete homecoming plan will be distributed shortly, but there is one event I

would like to encourage now - Skinny Dragon Homecoming Meeting on 13 Jan in K-Bay. The event will include professionals from the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center and various other organizations who can provide pointers for a successful and enjoyable post-deployment homecoming after a long seven long months away from your loved ones. At this meeting, they will discuss our Homecoming Schedule and details of what you should expect during this very busy time. The event will be hosted by our two great Ombudsmen (Rebecca Mitchem (904-525-2313) and Ashley Flynn (618-365-0614) - skinnydragonombudsman@gmail.com) and our Beach Det OIC, LCDR Dave Drake (david.r.drake@navy.mil) - feel free to contact them for more information on this important event.

Ciao,
Skipper Hanks

SIGONELLA DIRECT

Happy Holidays from Sigonella! This December the Skinny Dragons in Sicily decked the halls of the hangar with wrapping paper covered doors, tinsel, and Christmas lights. With all the shops and workspaces



taking part, a friendly door competition was held. In preparation for the contest, PS2 Thuemler was seen cutting out paper stars for days, and her efforts paid off. The stakes were high and the competition fierce, but the Admin Department and Supply came out on top. Both shops enjoyed a pizza party as their reward for winning. Also this month, members of our command donated toys to charity, held a canned food drive, and visited a local orphanage to help spread the cheer. As we continue to operate at a fast pace, we were fortunate enough to take the evening of the 18th to relax and reenergize at our squadron holiday party. Barbeque, karaoke, and a gift raffle highlighted this year's celebration. AZ2 Taylor graced us all with his energetic hosting abilities, ending the night both dehydrated and hoarse. But we sure enjoyed it! We all look forward to returning home soon, but until then, we wish you happy holidays and a Happy New Year!

DJIBOUTI DIRECT

VP-4's Djibouti bunch has kicked off the holiday season this December in an environment quite unfamiliar to snowmen, eggnog, or Christmas carols. Although the weather is not conducive to the wearing of ugly Christmas sweaters (the temperature dropped to a whopping 90 degrees Fahrenheit), holiday cheer still seems to abound. From the personal decorations strung up on all the "CLUs down in Clu-ville" to the MWR sponsored gatherings in the local hangouts around base, the holidays have sprung up in the desert.



La Casa Famalia Orphanage

The Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron Four recently visited La Casa Famalia Orphanage in Belpasso, Sicily to share in the spirit of giving. The participants helped paint two rooms, as well as held a cook out and game day with the children, whose ages ranged from six to seventeen years old. AZC Cole coordinated the event in which the Skinny Dragons contributed a total of \$1,600 for purchasing the cooking supplies, paint, and gifts for twenty children. As a combined effort by all of the



Skinny Dragons, those lucky enough to participate in the actual event spent the day spreading holiday cheer, all the while enjoying the family oriented experience that each Skinny Dragon is missing this holiday season.

AWO2 Torres expressed her feelings of happiness at being able to give back to the community saying, “This whole experience has brought joy to my heart and allowed me to give, while only a little, something back to those less fortunate.” Common among all who were involved was a sensation of joy, especially as each child opened their gift with zealous and excited expressions. “It truly was an experience made to tear at your heart strings,” Chief Cole proclaimed. The VP-4 Skinny Dragons are thankful to have been provided this opportunity to give back to the community and find a little slice of holiday cheer while doing it.

VP-4 IN ACTION









SKINNY DRAGONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!!



Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal

LCDR Fay



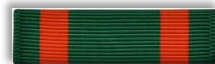
Good Conduct Medal

AT1 Wheeler



Newly Qualified Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists

YNC Lawrence
AT2 Troili
AD3 Iannone



Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

AD1 Miller
LS2 Brunk
AE2 Ciralli
AT2 Householder
AD2 Martinez



Flag Letter of Commrndation

AM3 Malik

Newly Qualified CDI/CDQAR/QAR

CDQAR

AO2 Watts